

July 2, 2023

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Milford, Delaware 19963



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9:00am-3:30pm, Monday–Friday

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The Rev. Eric W. Evers & The Rev. Paige G. Evers

Pastors

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# The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am service

*You can find videos of this Sunday's service and our past services (along with downloadable bulletins) at [www.rlcmilford.com/connect](http://www.rlcmilford.com/connect). Share these with your friends and family on social media so we can touch more lives with God's Word!*

Please silence cell phones before worship begins. Thank you!

## Welcome to Reformation!

We are especially glad to welcome visitors to worship. We hope you experience God's love for you this morning! Visitors are invited to sign the pew pads so we can be in touch with you.

## Holy Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the usher's directions to come forward down the center aisle to receive the bread and wine. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer or grape juice, please inform the server. Those who do not yet receive Communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Lutherans believe that in Communion, we receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins, the renewal of our faith, and the strengthening of our Christian community. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good!

## Prayer Requests

To add someone to the prayers of the Church, please write their name on the list behind the altar.

### **The Mission of Reformation Lutheran Church is to:**

**Invite** our neighbors as Jesus invites us.

**Engage** in a community of graceful discipleship.

**Equip** our members to grow in faith and ministry.

**Embody** the love of Jesus in our world.

# Gathering

*\* indicates the congregation is invited to stand, as able*

## Announcements

### Prelude

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** We gather in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the forgiving and healing power of your Holy Spirit, so that we may reflect your glory as we grow in holiness and faith, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P:** God of mercy and life,

**C:** **we confess that we have turned from you and have fallen under the deadly power of sin. Our thoughts, words, and deeds have broken our fellowship with you and with our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray, and set us free from sin and death, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, both now and forever, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P:** In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and in him, we are freed from sin and death. His Holy Spirit renews us and leads us into life. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### \*Gathering Hymn

“As We Gather at Your Table”

**No. 522**

### \*Apostolic Greeting

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## \*Hymn of Praise

“He is Exalted”

Twila Paris

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise Him.  
He is exalted, forever exalted, and I will praise His name!  
He is the Lord; forever His truth shall reign.  
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.  
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

## \*Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray...

C: **Amen.**

## Children’s Sermon

# Word

## First Reading

**Jeremiah 28:5-9**

<sup>5</sup>Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; <sup>6</sup>and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup>But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup>The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup>As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

**Romans 6:12-23**

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. <sup>15</sup>What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience,

which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. <sup>20</sup>When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**A:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation “Alleluia”**

Traditional Melody

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia.

**\*Gospel**

**Matthew 10:40-42**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 10th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>40</sup>[Jesus said,] “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Paige G. Evers

**\*Hymn of the Day**

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

**No. 765**

**The Rite of Holy Baptism for Halo Marie Zulauf**

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

**A:** Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

## **\*The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we  
forgive those who trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever  
and ever. Amen.**

## **Meal**

### **\*Peace**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### **Collection of the Offering**

**Musical Offering**      "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"      Summer Choir

**\*Offertory**      "Shout to the Lord"      **No. 821**

My Jesus, my Savior,  
Lord, there is none like you.  
All of my days I want to praise  
the wonders of your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter,  
tower of refuge and strength;  
let ev'ry breath, all that I am  
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing  
power and majesty, praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands;  
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

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### **\*Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray:

C: **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **\*Proper Preface**

#### **\*“Holy, Holy”**

Jimmy Owens

Holy holy, holy holy, holy holy, Lord God Almighty.

And we lift our hearts before you as a token of our love.

Holy holy, holy holy.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Come and fill our hearts anew, Holy Spirit.

And we lift our voice before you as a token of our love.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.

### **\*The Words of Institution**

#### **“Spirit Song”**

John Wimber

O, let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love,

Let him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.

Oh, let him have the things that hold you, and his Spirit like a dove,

Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

*Refrain:* Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.

O, come and sing this song with gladness  
as your hearts are filled with joy,  
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.  
O, give him all your tears and sadness,  
give him all your years of pain,  
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name. (*Refrain*)

## **The Distribution of Communion, Standing, at the Altar Rail**

Communion Hymns: "Borning Cry," No. 732; "Go, My Children, with My Blessing," No. 543; "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart," No. 873; "When Morning Gilds the Skies," No. 853

### **\*Post-Communion Blessing**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

## **Sending**

### **\*Benediction**

*Congregation responds with Amen.*

### **\*Sending Hymn**

"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

**No. 890**

### **\*Dismissal**

*Congregation responds with Thanks be to God.*

## **Postlude**

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## SERVING TODAY

### July 2

Usher	10:00 Bill Vendetti
Lay Reader	Ron Semmont
Worship Assistant	Mary K. Konesey
Acolyte	
Healing Prayer	
Altar Guild	Janice Weiner
Live Stream Operator	Sigrid Evers

## SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

### July 9

Usher	10:00 Kathy & Norm Hamstead
Lay Reader	Sally Newell
Worship Assistant	Dave Curnock
Acolyte	Lexi Caccamise
Healing Prayer	Joy Rowe
Altar Guild	Lisa Caccamise
Live Stream Operator	Sigrid Evers

## THIS WEEK AT REFORMATION

Today	9:00 am — Summer Choir
	10:00 am — Worship Service
	10:00 am — Rite of Holy Baptism for Halo Zulauf
Tuesday	KIDS Inc. and Church Office Closed
Next Sunday	9:00 am — Summer Choir
	10:00 am — Worship Service
	10:00 am — Rite of Holy Baptism for Malia Schlegel

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Home Bible Study Group This Summer!** Beginning July 10, we will hold a new study and a new event! You're invited to be part of a group that will read the book "I Guess I Haven't Learned That Yet" by Shauna Neiquist. The book is available on Amazon as a hard copy and on Kindle. The study will take place at the home of Sandi Shea. Space is limited! There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. We hope you can join us!

**The Christian Service Committee** will be accepting monetary donations online (<https://goodgifts.elca.org/group-gift/reformation-lutheran-church>) or checks made out to ELCA during the month of July for ELCA Good Gifts. The gift we give will be determined by the amount we collect. Our goal is to raise enough to give a cow. Catalogs with the list of gifts and the impact of those gifts will be in the Narthex.

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God's love in Jesus is a gift. ELCA Good Gifts is just one way you can share that love with others. ELCA believes that their partners know their communities best. That's why they identify the needs and priorities in their communities. The projects have been planned by our partners – meaning that each community receives exactly the support it needs and none of what it doesn't. Your donation will be used where needed most.

**Summer 'Pick-up' Choir** will gather in the choir room at 9 AM to practice, then sing at the 10 AM service. All you need is a willing heart to make a joyful noise!! Give it a try this summer!

**KIDS Inc.@RLC News:** This summer we have added fundraising efforts to the curriculum. Funds raised will defray the cost of the buses for our various field trips this summer. Our **Yard and Bake Sale** will take place from July 10 through July 14. *Donations for the Yard Sale may be brought in beginning July 9.* Storage is a problem so we cannot accept donations prior to that date. You can help us by donating baked goods, by donating items for the yard sale, by posting flyers for these events where you work and shop, and by stopping by to support these events. The flyers can be found in the Narthex.

We are hoping that by involving the children in these fundraising efforts they will gain a better understanding of how much the field trips cost and we are hoping to also make the trips more affordable for families.

**Summer is here! Let's keep things relaxed.** Even though summer is a more relaxed time, we still have a lot of ministry happening! We will have multiple Bible study options for adults to grow in faith and get to know each other better. Our Vacation Bible School will provide an amazing chance for families to experience the love of Jesus together. There will be some great fellowship events, Church Music Sunday, and of course regular worship with our summer "pick up" choir. The Growing Young Team is continuing to learn and to work on plans to more effectively engage with young people and their families to help our church grow and thrive as we pass on faith to the next generation.

This summer, Reformation has a lot going on! And, that ministry needs resources. Churches often feel stress in the warm months because of the dreaded "summer slump" in offerings. Leaders have to be focused on cash flow more than on ministry. Anxiety around money crowds out energy for mission.

The Stewardship Committee wants to see our leaders energized for ministry. So we encourage our members to stay current with your offerings during the summer months. Regular giving means a more predictable cash flow. If you have fallen behind on your pledge, catching up during the summer months is a real blessing.

We encourage our members to use the options at [www.rlcmilford.com/give](http://www.rlcmilford.com/give), including automatic recurring giving. Remember, this isn't about "dollars and cents" or "paying the bills at church." It's about the resources Reformation needs to do the work Jesus has called us to.

So many people in our community need the grace of Jesus and the love of a Christian community. Your giving will enable Reformation to be focused on providing this ministry all year long. Thank you!

In Christ,

The Stewardship Committee

Karen Oldland, Tammy Mook, Rod Kopp, Pastor Eric

**Happy Birthday to:** David Krantz, today, Ginny Hannah, Linda Hansen, and Ashley Venett on the 3rd, and Susan Emory on the 7th.

**Happy Anniversary to:** Donn & Jan Steele on the 5th, and Fred & Barbara Seth on the 6th.

## **Spread the word!**

Please “Like” Reformation’s **Facebook** page for news, announcements, and photos of church events!

[www.facebook.com/RLCmilford](http://www.facebook.com/RLCmilford)

Check in and **tweet** or post about what’s going on with the hashtag #RLCMilford, or post on Facebook and tag *Reformation Lutheran Church*.

Reformation is on **Instagram!**

Please follow our church’s profile: @rlcmilford